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FEATURES

WE'RE COUNTRY, AND PROUD OF IT14
Your stories of why we like living in the country.

HOMELAND SECURITY17
How land trusts help to preserve
the North Carolina countryside.

ONLINE AUDITS26
A consumer's guide to
online home energy audits.

DEPARTMENTS

FIRST PERSON6
Cooperatives care about the environment . . .
Where is the "on" switch? . . . Photos of Earl
at the wheel and a 2002 Warren County
"snowman."

MORE POWER TO YOU10
Proposed merger of satellite TV providers
could affect rural service . . . Co-ops rate high
in customer satisfaction and trust.

MARKETPLACE28-33
A showcase of goods and services.

JOYNER'S CORNER31
Solve this "Say Watt?" puzzle and win \$25.

CAROLINA COMPASS34
May events across the state.

ENERGY CENTS38
All about mini-duct heating/cooling systems.

HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE40
About trailing arbutus.

CLASSIFIED ADS41

CAROLINA KITCHEN42
Strawberry Raspberry Trifle, and White
Chocolate Berry Pie.

On the Cover

Scott Treadway, of Marshall, and his
team demonstrate the horse-drawn
way of forestry on the John Humphrey
farm in Henderson County. The
Humphrey farm is protected by an
easement donated to the Carolina
Mountain Land Conservancy. See page
17. (Photo by Christie McLear.)



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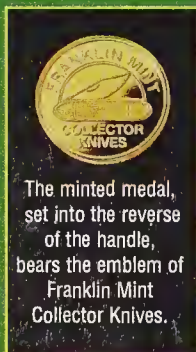
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Cooperatives care about where we live



By June M. Smoll

Think about why you like where you live. If you live in the countryside served by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, the beautiful views we're known for are right out your front door, or at least not far away. Every day you can see the mountains and woodlands, the rivers, lakes and sounds, the farms that feed us, the Carolina blue sky. On your way to work or church or to visit someone, you can gaze across a landscape that changes every day and carries with it a refreshing sensation as each season begins and ends.

We also like where we live because of the neighbors we know and the communities that serve us all. And to some extent, the people who live where we live reflect our surroundings. We have in common the land that supports us, the water and air that sustain us. When we see each other, we talk about the weather, or what's happening down the road. We all care about the weather and about what happens down the road. We care because it's the environment that we share.

It's not news to any of us that more and more people expect to share this environment with us. Lately, it seems we've had to compete hard for the land, water and air that many of us have grown up with and have taken for granted. The environment itself has become more valuable, more precious, than we ever thought it would be only 30 years ago. Our rural North Carolina environment is increasingly valuable for farming, for business, for housing, for recreation and tourism. Families who have lived in a place for generations look around today and wonder if their children and grandchildren can afford to live on the same ground where their ancestors lived.

A natural response to the rising popularity of rural North Carolina is the land conservation business. When something is very important to enough of us, we seem to find a way to protect it. Land conservation is one of those ways. In recent years, North Carolina has grown a crop of local organizations devoted to protect-

ing the farms, woods, streams, hillsides, mountain peaks, wetlands and views that mean so much to us. They are land trusts. Land trusts are formed by local people who care about the local surroundings and about the families who appreciate their surroundings. Their purpose is simply to help landowners save the environment that has done so much for them and their communities. Land trusts help landowners exercise alternatives to giving up their property without sacrificing financial security.

The work of protecting North Carolina's environment comes naturally to electric cooperatives as well. Since their formation more than 50 years ago, cooperatives have concentrated on sustaining the farms and rural communities of North Carolina. As the environment itself has become more valuable, the cooperatives have intensified their efforts to protect it. Like any enlightened business, cooperatives know that communities must remain clean and healthy so that people enjoy living and working there.

It is my job to work for the cooperatives in their role as protectors of rural North Carolina — from siting poles and lines, to complying with environmental permitting and reporting requirements, to building and operating the facilities that produce and distribute electric power so they comply with multiple regulatory programs. I can tell you that the people who work for cooperatives are sincere and careful about how they operate in our natural environment. They care about how their maintenance of powerlines affects the people who live nearby. They care about where they build new installations and how they maintain existing ones. After all, the people who work for the cooperatives live in the same places as you do. They understand the history, the value, the effects that their surroundings have on them as much as their neighbors do. And they consider it their job to protect it.

June M. Smoll is director of environmental affairs for the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. She is also vice president of the board of directors of the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, the central resource organization for North Carolina's 24 land trusts. For more information, see pages 17-20.

Where's the "On" switch?

When Sarah Ann, my 2-year-old granddaughter, was visiting recently, I gave her a small, rice heat-therapy bag I had made to comfort her at home when she has an ear-ache. (She has had that a lot this winter.) To demonstrate, I warmed it in the microwave and handed it to her, placing it over her ear.

A few minutes later, after the bag had cooled, she came back to report, "Mamaw, it cut off!"

Just goes to show even toddlers know how much we rely on electricity these days.

Louise Norman
Mount Airy
Surry-Yadkin EMC



Earl at the wheel

All animals follow him wherever he goes, even when he mows the grass or goes into the woods to hunt. There they are.

Sometimes we sit on our front porch relaxing, and of course there is Earl the rooster. (The others are Shag, Buster and Flick.)

My husband stays very busy, always working in the yard after he's worked hard at his construction job all day. He loves the outdoors and his animals, as much as they love him.

Robin Smith
Clemmons
EnergyUnited

Coast Host phone number

Carolina Country published the wrong phone number for North Carolina's Coast Host in our April travel guide's advertising section. North Carolina's Coast Host is a voluntary organization consisting of civic and commercial groups dedicated to promoting the North Carolina coast. Its phone number is (800) 948-1099.

Thanks to Onie Frances

After reading Onie Frances Rogerson's letter ["First Person," April 2001], I had to write. If we all were "a little handicap" (as she described herself), our world wouldn't be in the awful mess it is in now.

Onie, you are truly special. Thank you for sharing your feeling and life with me.

Bennie Sue Mitchell
Rutherfordton



Onie Frances Rogerson (at rear) called Carolina Country to thank us for publishing her letter in the April magazine. She lives at 466 Brooks Lane, Blounts Creek, NC 27814.

The gospel according to Hank

Thank you so much for your article on Hank Smith [March 2002] and his advice to Carolina gardeners. We moved to Haywood County to make our retirement home in January of 1993. We had no idea of what we could plant or grow in this environment, and then there was Hank's column showing us the way. I have kept every column since that time, in a looseleaf notebook, by month, and use them as my "growing bible."

He has been a valued source of information on what plants to buy, to plant and to enjoy. Thanks so much to him and to you for printing his gardening guide.

Anne Conkling
Waynesville
Haywood EMC

Warren County "snowman" 2002

In anticipation of our grandsons' visit from California, and with little hope of snow, my husband created this snowman out of vines found in the woods of Warren County. It greeted them as they drove into the driveway, and they loved it.

Judy Bauman
Chapel Hill
Halifax EMC

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Satellite TV cooperative says proposed merger would affect rural service severely

The two dominant satellite TV companies have failed to demonstrate how their proposed merger is in the public interest and have instead shown a disturbing tendency to contradict on consumer protection issues, according to the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC).

In comments filed April 4 with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), NRTC urged the agency to reject the proposed merger of EchoStar Communications (DISH Network) and Hughes Electronics (DirecTV), citing severe implications for consumers.

NRTC, a leading advocate for rural consumers, responded to what it called conflicting claims made by the companies in recent months. For example:

Local TV channels: In their February filing to the FCC, and again in a March news conference and Congressional hearing, the companies pledged to deliver local broadcast TV channels in all 210 designated market areas (DMAs) in the United States. But on March 7, EchoStar and allied groups filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to overturn the local carriage requirement and stating in a footnote that "the merged entity does not intend to carry all channels in every market" unless the law is upheld. NRTC says it is already technically and economically feasible to provide local stations in all 210 markets, and the merger is not necessary to do this.

Monopoly pricing power: EchoStar and DirecTV have promised a "national pricing plan" to allay concerns about their monopoly pricing power in areas without cable TV. Yet the companies have also openly acknowledged they need "flexibility" in pricing at the local level.

Availability of cable TV: EchoStar and DirecTV argue the merger will not create a monopoly for multi-channel TV service, based on the claim that nearly 100 percent of television

households have access to a cable TV option. But just two years ago, EchoStar acknowledged that "millions" of homes do not have access to cable. The New York Times, citing several independent, authoritative sources, has estimated the number of American homes not passed by cable at 25 million, and in August 2001, DirecTV itself estimated the number at 35 million.

Competition versus cable: EchoStar and DirecTV argue that they must merge in order to compete and even survive against the cable giants, but the evidence suggests otherwise. Since 1997, DBS subscribership has tripled while cable's penetration rate has dropped by 9 percent.

"The number and frequency of contradictory, inaccurate statements made by these companies on core issues is simply astonishing," said NRTC President and CEO Bob Phillips. "These statements were made at various times to various audiences, but regulators should not be fooled. The FCC should take this pattern of behavior into consideration when it decides whether this merger should be permitted. NRTC has pointed out repeatedly the numerous problems this merger poses for rural consumers including higher prices, less service, no choices and less innovation."

NRTC supports more than 1,000 rural utilities in delivering telecommunications and information technology solutions to their communities. NRTC's members and affiliates provide DirecTV programming services to more than 1.8 million subscribers. NRTC is the 10th largest television programming provider in the United States, and the largest provider of satellite television to rural homes.

For more information, see NRTC's Web site at www.nrtc.org.

To register your comments with NRTC, send e-mail to keepconnected@nrtc.org

How cooperatives set policy direction nationally

An important function of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting is the consideration of resolutions by the membership. These resolutions cover topics as diverse as global climate change, rural economic development, telecommunications and member communication. They reflect what the membership expects from their national association and set down the association's policy direction.

This year's annual meeting was held in Dallas March 11-13. Attending were representatives of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including Jeff Edwards, executive vice president and general manager of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation (Hertford), who represents the state on the national association's board of directors.

Resolutions originate with cooperatives themselves. Members identify a problem or situation that needs attention, either individually or through meetings of various committees. Resolutions undergo debate during NRECA's fall regional meetings, and again in the days just prior to the March annual meeting, when 10 standing committees, each of which has its particular area of knowledge and expertise, meet. Finally, the resolutions filter through a Standing Committee on Resolutions, which looks them over for consistency and occasionally suggests changes.

The process demonstrates that NRECA and electric cooperatives follow a grassroots policy development process in which members have the opportunity to participate and in which consensus is usually reached before the final product goes to the membership.

Attending were representatives of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including Jeff Edwards, executive vice president and general manager of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation (Hertford), who represents the state on the national association's board of directors.



R.A. Stein Jr., CEO of Energy United (Statesville), delivers the welcome and president's report at the Cooperative Finance Corporation annual meeting in Dallas last March. Stein's term as a board member and board president of the cooperative national financing and business management organization ended in March. The meeting was held in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in Dallas.

ight Lines by DonnaRee



National survey shows co-ops rate high in customer satisfaction and trust

Electric co-ops outpaced other electricity suppliers in enjoying the trust of their consumer-members and keeping them satisfied, according to a recent national survey.

On a scale of 0-10, co-ops scored 7.5 on overall performance, compared with 6.6 for investor-owned utilities and 7.4 for municipally-owned utilities. The survey was conducted by RKS Research and Consulting among 830 heads of households last October.

"A vital factor in the high ratings awarded by cooperative members is their level of trust in the cooperative," the report said. "Two-to-one, cooperative members are more likely than customers overall to give high ratings to their co-ops on this point."

On what the survey report called "vital points of communicating effectively and listening to member concerns," co-ops significantly outperformed IOUs and municipals.

Among co-op consumers, 69 percent gave their utilities high marks for effective communication, compared to 60 percent for municipal utilities and 47 percent for IOUs.

When it came to listening to customer concerns, co-ops earned a 58 percent approval, compared to 43 percent for municipals and 37 percent for IOUs.

The report also noted that even though co-op consumers are the least likely of all utility customers to report outages, 41 percent gave their utility a 10 rating for satisfaction, compared to 30 percent of all those queried.

Among co-op consumers, 78 percent expressed satisfaction with their consumer representatives, compared to 67 percent for municipals and 63 percent for IOUs.

— Jerry Lipson, "Electric Co-op Today"

Hickory opera singer opens May "Carolina Calling" TV series

Hanna Hefner may be the biggest find of all the Touchstone Energy "Carolina Calling" Talent Search discoveries. Among the bluegrass players, country singers and gospel groups is Hanna, a promising opera singer. Her stunning voice will be introduced to a statewide audience on May 4 when she sings the aria, "Batti, batti, o bel Masetto" from Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" on the new "Carolina Calling" television show which airs at 8 p.m. Saturdays on the UNC-TV network.

Major funding for the 13-week series, which runs through June 29, comes from North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, with additional support from the North Carolina Division of Tourism and The North Carolina Rural Center. "Carolina Calling" is hosted by Hall of Fame entertainer Arthur Smith.

Hanna Hefner, of Hickory, graduates from the North Carolina School of the Arts this year with a degree in music and heads to Rome to study at the International Academy of the Arts. While she studies, she hopes to launch her career as a professional opera singer.



Hanna Hefner, who will graduate from the North Carolina School of the Arts this spring, will sing the aria from Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" on UNC-TV's "Carolina Calling" variety show sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives on May 4.

The May "Carolina Calling" line-up Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. on UNC-TV stations statewide, is as follows.

May 4: Opener/Arthur Smith: "Lady Be Good."

Taughstane Energy Talent Search guests: The Malpass Family, Pallacksville; Hanna Hefner, Hickory; Sheldon Ragers, Waxhaw.

Special guest: Fred Fester, producer of Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. "Carolina Calling" Classic: Mac Wiseman. Carolina Calling Orchestra and Dave Brathers.

May 11: Opener/Arthur Smith: "Nala." Taughstane Energy Talent Search guests:

Elvis Schreck, Emerald Isle; Sans of Gad, Plymouth; Amber Lee Daerr, Newport.

Special guest: Tam Gentry, Shelby Stephenson, Sen. Charlie Albertson. "Carolina Calling" Classics: Tammy Fale. Carolina Calling Orchestra and Dave Brathers.

May 18: Opener/Arthur Smith: "Music, Music, Music." Taughstane Energy Talent

Search guests: Laura McMahan, Marian; Faulkner Sisters & Brother June, Wingate; Ryan Baysden, Salter Path. Special guest: John Crenshaw, music historian (includes Blue Ridge Quartet clip). "Carolina Calling" Classics: Dan Rena. Carolina Calling Orchestra and Dave Brathers.

May 25: Opener/Arthur Smith: "Chicken Strut." Taughstane Energy Talent Search

guests: Jason Harrad, Durham; Hayley Janes, Beaufort; Ernest Lee Brawn, Hickory. Special guest: Alisan Krauss & Union Station. "Carolina Calling" Classics: George Hamilton IV. Carolina Calling Orchestra and Dave Brathers.



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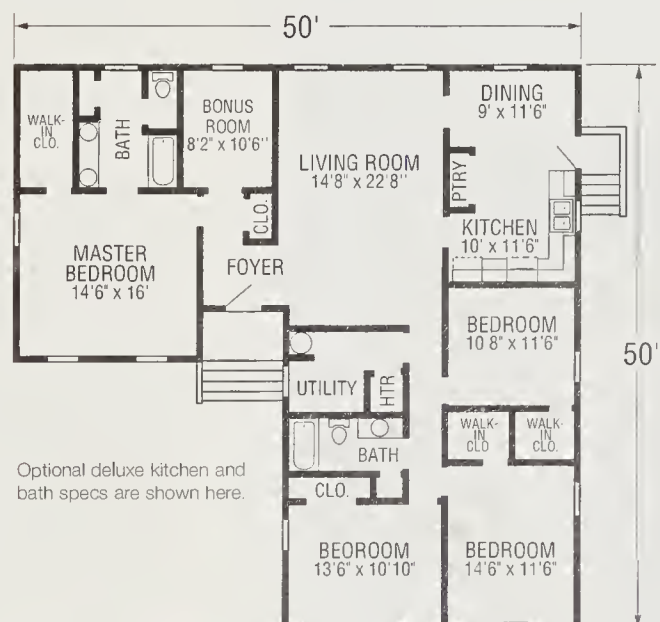
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We're Country, and Proud of It!

Why we like living in the country

It seems that one reason we like living in the country is what it can do for children growing up. They can run outside any time of the year and find something that captivates them. I remember climbing in our cherry tree for hours and not needing to eat anything the rest of the day. I remember losing perfectly good baseballs in cornfields, jumping rocks in fast-moving streams, building Huck Finn's raft in the middle of a field, and perfecting the complex game of barn basketball on rainy days. These lessons stay with us as we grow older and take their place in the bigger picture we form around us. There comes a point where something like Pilot Mountain actually speaks to us, as Terry McRoberts says here on these pages.

Thanks to everyone who sent us their thoughts on "why I like living in the country." We heard from many children who spoke from the heart about this, as well as others who remain grateful for a lifetime in rural North Carolina. I wish we had room to publish more. We'll eventually put more onto our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com.

Next month, look for selections of "The Funniest Story I Ever Heard." (Deadline was April 15.) There's still time to make the May 15 deadline for your advice or memory of "How to Survive a Storm." See page 20 for details.

— Michael & Gery

Life along Little Rock Creek

My place in the country is a small farm in the beautiful mountains near Bakersville (Mitchell County). If the mountains could speak they would tell you tales about the Cherokee Indians who lived along the Little Rock Creek, raising their families, fishing for trout, and dying there knowing "life is good."

My ancestors would spin you a yarn from their front porches where they sat in the evenings until bedtime, chewing tobacco and speaking of what tomorrow's weather would be.

I cherish all the memories of growing up here where the prints of my little bare feet are forever in the black fertile soil. I can feel my Dad's hand as we walked through the meadow and I said, "Dad, when I get big, I want this land."

I lift my eyes and marvel at the majestic Roan Mountain, where the rugged peaks are covered with Frazier fir trees and rhododendron. In the valley I see Little Rock Creek like a ribbon winding its way, churning and splashing until reaching the Nolichucky River that flows to Tennessee. I see the moon on the goat pasture, and I listen as the new babies sound like they're in a hospital nursery as their night passes in the shadow of the barn.

Winter wind here gusts through the trees, and it is bitter cold. Then spring comes and brings sunshine to warm the earth. Suddenly there are violets and daffodils and an array of wildflowers covering the earth. New life and new hope for a season is budding for all living things. This is my place in the country, and I thank God.

Sandra Garland Depew
Morganton
Rutherford EMC



The spirit of the Oakboro produce stand

Moving from San Francisco in the early 1960s, I found myself driving through a small town one afternoon. "You would never catch me living in a little God-forsaken town like this," I told my sister.

Years later I now live in that same small town of Oakboro (Stanly County). My husband grew up here, as have our four children.

The little produce stand next to city hall is a gathering spot each day as the sun begins its descent. One can pick up fresh melons, onions and potatoes, and in the winter months, local honey, fruits and other goodies.

More than the goods are the people who sit outside and share the camaraderie as perhaps their fathers did a generation before them. Sharing, caring and helping one another are just a few of the adjectives describing the local gentry.

Going home to Gates County

I live in Gatesville (Gates County), the countriest of country, but I love it. I like living in the country because of the peace and quiet, the low crime rate and the friendly neighbors, just to name a few things.

In the country I don't have to worry about locking my car doors at night, and on a couple of occasions the door to our house has been unlocked all night. I also appreciate the wildlife in the country and living right down the road from Merchant's Millpond State Park. The small schools and the country stores that sell the big round cheese and just the clean smell is wonderful. I work in Virginia, but nothing could be finer than going home to Gates County each afternoon.

*Ethel K. Stevens
Gatesville
Roanoke Electric Cooperative*

Neighbors in Davidson County

We live just a little over nine miles from Denton (Davidson County) on a dirt road that dead-ends. The best thing about living in the country is our neighbors. My husband, Graham, got his tractor stuck in a ditch back in January. I called and left a message for our neighbor, Roy, to come and pull him out when he got home if he had time. Just before dark, I heard the tractor coming, and it wasn't long until Roy had pulled him out.

We have another neighbor, Genevieve, who will call and say she is going to cook a pot of pinto beans and wants to know if I would like some. Of course, when I go to pick them up, she will have a complete meal ready for us to eat. Since I work every day, this is always a treat not to have to cook a meal when I get home.

Thanks, Roy and Genevieve, for being such good neighbors!

*Linda G. Davis
Denton
EnergyUnited*

Salvation from the city

I relocated to North Carolina after living in Baltimore for 43 years. My 17-year-old son, Kenyatta, was murdered in that terrible city in 1994. After the trial ended in 1996, I knew I had to get away from there. The noise from the police sirens, ambulance sirens and police helicopters flying low chasing criminals had my nerves wrecked.

My grandmother used to bring me to North Carolina to visit when I was a little girl and well into my teenaged years. After enduring my son's death, I remembered the peacefulness of the country. I knew this was where I needed to be in order to try to get my nerves, thoughts and myself together to go on with my life.

I prayed and resigned from my good government job, as they call it, packed up my house and moved to the country. I believe the country has saved my sanity and my life. I can walk outside around my house and feel true peace. I can plant my own vegetables and enjoy watching them grow, and not worry about people stealing them. I lie down at night and have the most peaceful and quiet sleep. I wake up in the morning feeling refreshed.

I thank God for the country. The country has given me a new way of living and enjoying my life.

*Margaret Rhonda Johnson
Fountain
Pitt & Greene EMC*

Learning the facts of life

The town I grew up in is not even found on some state road maps. At best it was a 20-minute drive "to town," as Grandma would have said. We didn't have any sidewalks, and for years our roads were paved with rough gravel that made it hard for roller skating.

My friends and I would often go for walks in the woods behind our house. We could find the cleanest, crystal blue streams, and even see deer

My beloved cable cars and the Golden Gate Bridge have been replaced by stately oak trees, open fields, and folks whom who you can count on when times are good or bad.

The large cities of North Carolina are nice to visit, but the true beauty in this magnificent state lies in the spirit and backbone of the inhabitants of its many villages, hamlets and small towns. Learning to know and truly care about our neighbors and townfolk has blessed and enriched my now Southern country way of life.



*Linda Tucker
Oakboro
Union Power
Cooperative*

tracks. We tried to build a clubhouse once, but sheetrock does not withstand rain.

One of the best things about living in the country was the education. On nice summer evenings, several women would gather on my Grandma's front porch and talk. Well, not really talk, more like gossip, rock in rocking chairs, and swing. Only living in the country can one learn important lessons for life, such as why old women can dip snuff and chew tobacco everyday, except Sunday. And only from living in the country could you ever learn how old is "old enough to eat cornbread, without choking."

Learning these facts of life are examples of what you can get only from living in the country.

Crystal Patrick
Hamlet
Pee Dee EMC

What Pilot Mountain says

I'm from a place called Shoals (Surry County). In my opinion, it's the best.

I love country living because for one thing that's all I know, but for

another, I think country people are special. When I was a little girl riding down the road with my dad, we would meet someone on the road and my dad would take his hand off the steering wheel and point it up. I asked him once, why? He said that was the way you said "hey" in the country.

Guess what? Thirty-seven years later, I do the same thing. Some you know, some you don't.

Winston-Salem is not a big city, but too big for me!

I've driven up and down Highway 52 for 23 years. But every time I round that curve past Akron Drive, on clear days I see Pilot Mountain in the background, and it looks like the mountain is saying, "O.K., come on home."

Kids are different, too. We've raised two in the country, and they are just as content to go to the river or creek and play and have a blast.

We have a Fourth of July parade in our town. City people may think it's corny, but I wouldn't miss it for the world. I am country and proud of it!

Terry McRoberts
Pinnacle
Surry-Yadkin EMC

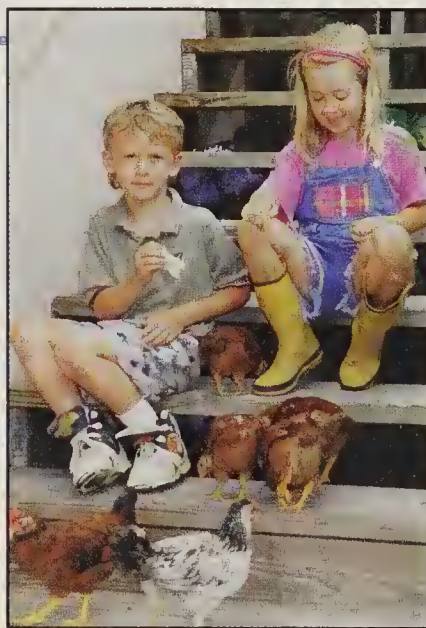
When we were young in South Mills

Matt and I like the country because it's wide open, plus it has woods to play in. The reason why we love the woods is because there are so many cool animals and beautiful plants.

When we were both young, we always played together with the chickens. Now we're 11 and 10, and we still play together. It was always fun to raise chickens and hatch their eggs. We still even have bonfires, and we always like to play hide-and-go-seek after the bonfires. We can't wait till summer to take a dip in the pool.

We live in South Mills (Camden County). What's good about it is we have big fields for veggies and good scenery.

Matt Pesek and Danielle Stephens
South Mills
Albemarle EMC



Matthew and Danielle wrote this completely on their own and spent well over an hour doing so. They laughed and remembered about the days gone by. It was so precious to peek in on them and listen to their stories of chickens, bonfires, gardens, hide-and-go-seek, worms, toods, nature and much more. How does the commercial go? Paper, five cents; pencil, 25 cents; stomp, 34 cents; raising kids in the country, priceless! — Matthew's Mom

SEND us your best. Earn \$50.

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

July 2002

"How to Survive a Storm."

Your advice and memories about storms.

Deadline: May 15

August 2002

"My Funniest Pet Story."

Send pictures, too.

Deadline: June 15

September 2002

"My Favorite Photo."

Our annual photo gallery.

Deadline: July 15

October 2002

"How I Learned to Drive."

How good was the teacher, really?

Deadline: August 15

November 2002

"The Dumbest Thing I Ever Did."

And the lesson you learned afterwards.

Deadline: Sept. 15

December 2002

"Advice for Getting Older."

How can we age gracefully?

Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, e-mail address, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
8. We will post an our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Homeland Security

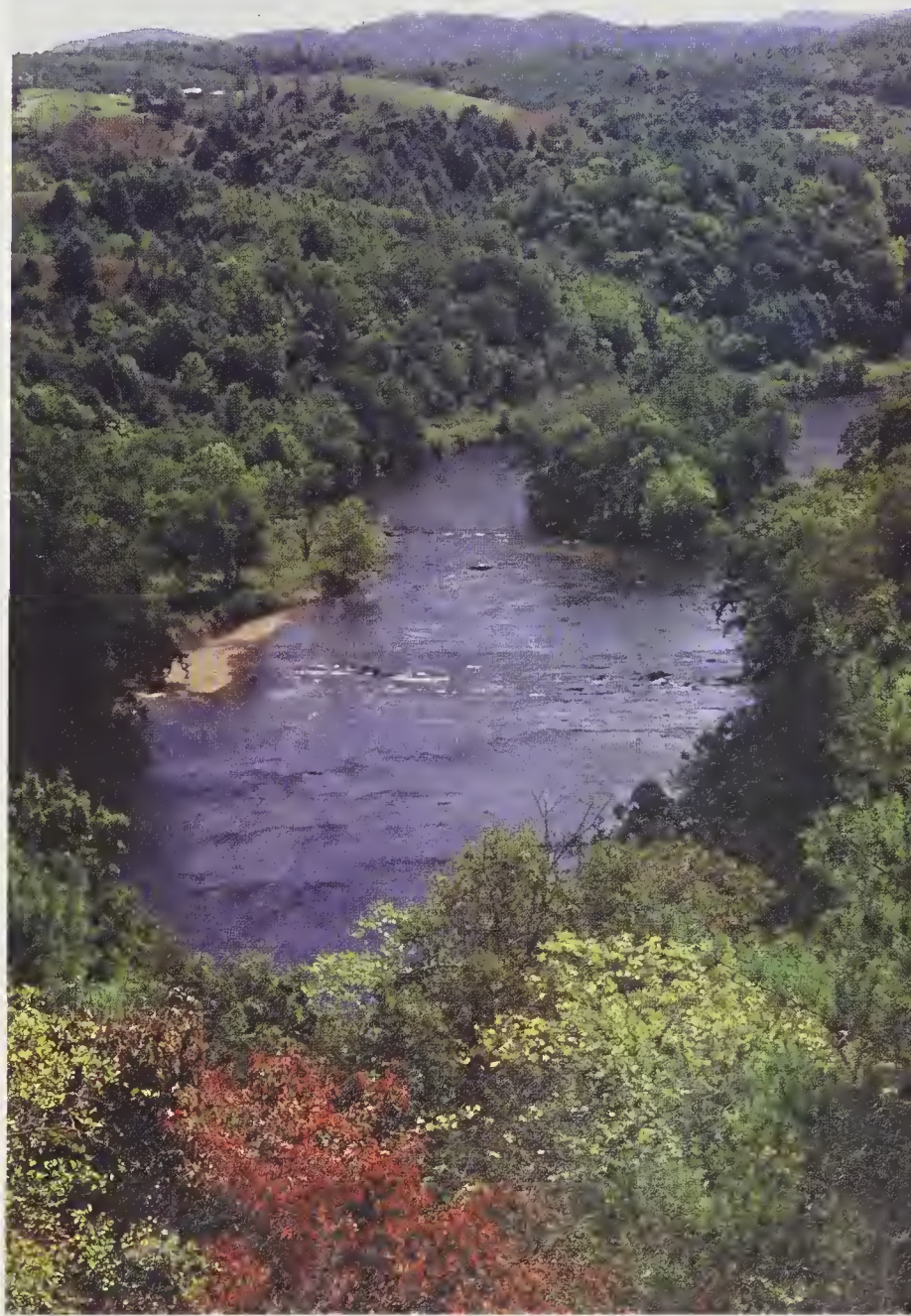
Land conservation in North Carolina

By Elizabeth Hunter

Twenty-eight years ago, when Ann von Greunigan bought a 170-acre abandoned cotton and tobacco farm known as the Johnson Homestead, she hardly imagined that the city life she'd sought to escape might invade her rural retreat. "My farm is southwest of Siler City, almost on the Randolph County line," the retired the N.C. State College of Engineering English instructor says. "Our immediate area is not too developed now. But last year, checking fenceline, I discovered a mobile home park had gone in behind my place. And there's more and more development going on south of Siler City, near the airport, coming toward us."

The Johnson Homestead was part woodland, part scrub, which von Greunigan cleared for pasture for a beef cattle operation, soon after she settled in. In the late 1980s, she purchased an adjoining 150-acre tree farm, on which she grows loblolly pines for market. A couple of years ago, worried that "the city fathers would like Siler City to become the next Cary"—a community whose population has grown exponentially, from 7,430 in 1970 to more than 100,000 last year—she began looking for ways to protect her farm from development.

She got help from the Triangle Land Conservancy, a Raleigh-based land trust established in 1983 to create a regional network of open space and natural areas in Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Orange and Wake counties. Together she and TLC personnel drew up a conservation easement for her two parcels that insures their continuation as farm and managed forest. The easement, which she donated to TLC in 2000, set aside a



This land along the New River at the North Carolina-Virginia line is forever protected through a conservation easement held by the National Committee for the New River. (Photo by Rick Ward.)

corner of the Johnson Homestead for wildlife ("I understand I have some amphibians of interest," she says) and designated a limited portion of each parcel for home sites. The rest of the land will remain in agricultural use.

A growing number of Tar Heel residents from the coast to the mountains are taking similar steps to protect land they love. In Pasquotank County, retired farmers Murphy and Nancy Sample donated a conservation easement on

(continued on next page)



John Humphrey beneath a southern Appalachian acidic cliff, one of several notable natural communities on his property in Mills River, Henderson County. He donated a conservation easement here in 1996.

200 acres of farmland to the N.C. Coastal Land Trust last year. Tenants now grow soybeans, corn and cabbages on the land that had been in Murphy Sample's family for more than 100 years. "We wanted to keep our land the way it is—on and on and on—instead of going into concrete," Nancy Sample says simply.

Mills River is "a fertile and historically productive agricultural area" between Hendersonville and Asheville that Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy director Kieran Roe calls "probably the next frontier for urban sprawl." But sprawl will never claim the 182-acre farm that John and Ruth Humphrey bought 34 years ago, when he was transferred to the Hendersonville area. The couple, whose children had grown up and moved away, "talked a long time" about ways to preserve the farm, and attended an informational meeting on land trusts. His wife died shortly thereafter, but John Humphrey knew, when he donated a conservation easement on the farm to CMLC in 1996, that "it was a thing she would have wanted."

What are land trusts?

Land trusts like the ones von Greunigan, Humphrey, and the Samples worked with are non-profit organizations that offer communities and private citizens a variety of voluntary management and conservation strategies to permanently protect land. Within the last decade, with development pressures mounting, land trusts have sprung up all across the state to try to address community concerns about open space and conserving land.

Conservation easements—which are legal agreements that permanently restrict the way a parcel of land is used in order to protect its conservation values—are popular protection tools because they allow landowners to retain ownership of their property, while giving up certain rights associated with it. Future owners are also bound by an easement's terms (which is why land under conservation easement is said to be protected "in perpetuity"). The land trust accepting the easement is responsible for monitoring the property to ensure that the easement's terms are

being followed.

Conservation easements are flexible. "You can provide for different purposes and land uses within the format of a single easement," says Tom Smith, president of the National Committee for the New River, a conservation organization whose protection efforts include a land trust program. Ten years ago, Smith and his mother were approached by NCNR about placing a conservation easement on the part of the family farm that bordered the river. Initially, "we were not warm to the idea of giving up our property rights," he recalls. But Smith researched the issue, and decided conservation easements could help them keep the farm in the family—and protect the river's viewshed. Today, 190 of the Smiths' 480 acres—all their land that is visible from the river—are under conservation easement.

"I guess I'm one of the few people who has done conservation easements from both sides of the table," Smith says. Landowners negotiating donation or sale of a conservation

Hayfield and forest land on the Humphrey farm, Henderson County.



easement with a land trust “need to establish a comfort zone early on, to be in agreement on the purpose of the easement,” he says. “It has to involve the public good in some way, by preserving open space or water quality or wildlife habitat. You can’t get an easement on your back yard. But easements can really help farm families retain ownership of their land. If you do it right, a conservation easement is an effective tax management tool.”

Are there financial benefits?

“We’re seeing a growing interest in conservation easements from landowners, local governments and community organizations that recognize a need for conservation and like our voluntary, incentive-based approach,” Kieran Roe says. Among the incentives they offer are tax benefits, including federal income tax deductions and state income tax credits (based on a certified appraisal of the difference in value between the land with its development rights intact, and its value without them). “North Carolina has one of the most generous income tax credits [for

conservation gifts] of any state; it’s looked at by other states as a model,” he says. Additionally, granting an easement may reduce a landowner’s estate, property and capital gains taxes.

North Carolina provides the tax incentives because development—

“Easements can really help farm families retain ownership of their land. If you do it right, a conservation easement is an effective tax management tool.”

Tom Smith, farmer and president of the National Committee for the New River, Ashe County

once viewed as an unqualified good—is increasingly revealing its downside, in vanishing farmland, degraded streams, clogged highways and urban sprawl. The state’s population grew by an astounding 21.4 percent (more than a million people) in the 1990s, a boom that was echoed by a corresponding development explosion. Between 1992 and 1997, open land was converted to development at the rate of 11.6 acres *per hour*. A third of the half-million acres developed in North Carolina during that period was prime farmland, according to the USDA’s National Resources Inventory.

What about farmland?

“We’re doing things to the landscape in a very short period of time that we are going to have to live with forever,” says Gerry Cohn, southeast regional director of the American Farmland Trust. AFT opened an office in Graham 18 months ago “because land use patterns are changing in North Carolina—less tobacco, more retirees—and because farmland is threatened in this part of the country. We’re a land trust, but we’re also an educational organization, trying to stop the loss of productive farmland. We operate on a local level, showing communities some options they can consider in

making decisions about land.”

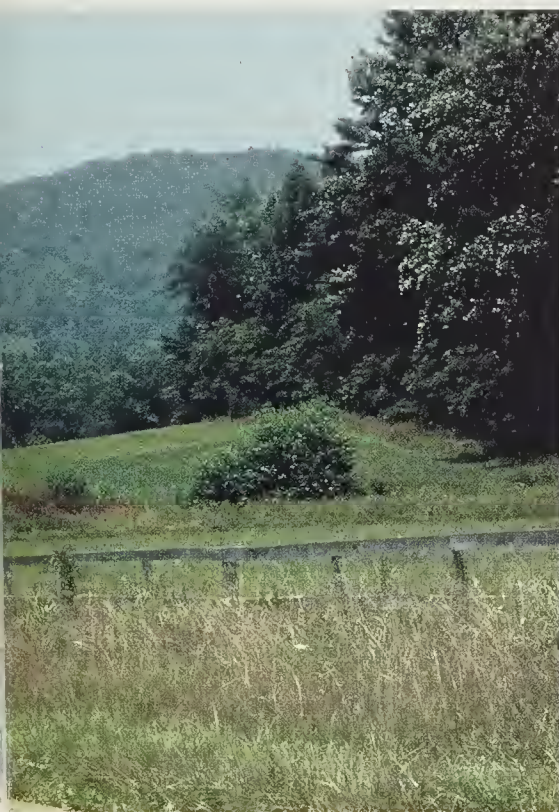
Among the places where AFT has been working is Rowan County, a once-rural landscape of rolling wooded hills and farms that is feeling tremendous development pressure, thanks to its location within a 45-minute drive of Charlotte,

Greensboro and Winston-Salem. With help from AFT and the LandTrust for Central North Carolina, county commission chairman Steve Blount and other community leaders have crafted a Rowan County Farmland Preservation Plan. If enacted, the plan will be able to “establish funding sources within the county to match state and federal dollars for farmland preservation,” says LTCNC’s executive director Jason Walser. Its goal is to enable the county to purchase development rights to permanently preserve its most significant farmland. The plan is a model for other communities in the Southeast.

Steve Blount, a building contractor who describes himself as “a strong supporter of farmland preservation,” decided to “put my money where my mouth was” when he and his wife, Melanie, donated to LTCNC a conservation easement on 57 acres fronting Second Creek, a South Yadkin River tributary. The land had been in his mother’s family for better than 200 years.

Not all farm families can afford to make such donations, even if they’d like to. “Land is often a farm family’s only real asset,” Cohn says. “So we can’t fault farmers for cashing in by selling their land. They haven’t invested in the stock market. Lots of

(continued on next page)



Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy

farmers would like another alternative than selling to a developer. They'd like to be able to hold onto their land, to pass it on to future generations, and at the same time realize some kind of return. One way they can do that is by selling development rights."

Two important sources of money that land trusts have drawn upon are the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Both have fallen on hard times in recent months, thanks to the state's budget crisis. The Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, which received an appropriation of \$1.5 million from the General Assembly for 2000-01, saw its funding slashed to \$200,000 this year; the Clean Water Management Trust Fund's \$40 million appropriation for 2001-02 was cut in half, then frozen. "These trust funds have been very useful in helping land trusts leverage private funds," says Jan Pender, public relations director for the Conservation Trust for North Carolina. "Land protection in the state suffers when they are cut."

The Million Acre Initiative

The budgetary crisis, if it continues, may threaten a state-led collaborative endeavor known as the Million Acre Initiative, whose goal is to bring permanent protection to the one million additional acres of undeveloped land in North Carolina by the end of 2009. When MAI was launched, 2.8 million acres—about eight percent of the state's acreage—were protected. "Right now, we're protecting 56,000 new acres a year," says MAI coordinator Marc deBree. "We need to average 100,000 acres a year." Lands that count toward the million acres include farms and forest lands, parks, greenways and trails, natural areas and gamelands, historically or culturally significant areas, riparian and other areas that contribute to water quality.

Despite MAI's lagging numbers and the state's budget woes, deBree remains optimistic about the initiative. "There's a lot of interest in land protection in and out of state government. It's a popular issue with our citizens. Exciting things are happening in many communities," he says. He points to the recent transfer of MAI into Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary William Ross's office as "a signal that it's a priority for the department. So I'm hopeful that our goal can be achieved."

Elizabeth Hunter is a freelance writer who lives in Mitchell County. She is a member of French Broad EMC.



Wetland and pond protected by Jean and John Earnhardt at the Lloyd-Andrews Historic Farmstead in Calvander, Orange County.

What Can You Do?

- If you own undeveloped land that you'd like to see protected and you don't know the name or telephone number for the land trust in your area, contact the Conservation Trust for North Carolina at (919) 828-4199. The Conservation Trust since 1991 has helped land trusts, community groups and landowners conserve land and water. CTNC is the only statewide land trust of its kind, providing central services for the state's 24 land trusts, including information exchange, coordination, public policy representation and financial assistance. The Conservation Trust has protected nearly 22,000 acres through direct protection actions, most of it along the Blue Ridge Parkway. All together, North Carolina's land trusts have protected some 85,000 acres in more than 500 places. Visit the CTNC Web site at www.ctnc.org. A map on its homepage shows locations of land trusts across the state. CTNC can direct you to a local or regional land trust where you live.
- Join your local or regional land trust. Membership dues help underwrite costs, and you can help spread the word to friends and neighbors about ways to help preserve North Carolina's remaining open space.

Land Conservation Options at a Glance

(Source: Conservation Trust for North Carolina)

Land Protection Option	Description	Results	Income Tax Deduction?	Estate Tax Reduction	Property Tax Reduction?	N. C. Conservation Tax Credit?
Conservation easement	Voluntary legal agreement between landowner and conservation organization that permanently limits some of the land's uses (primarily development rights.)	Conservation values of the land are protected by the conservation organization. Owner continues to own, use and live on property.	Yes	Yes	Often	Yes
Conservation easement	Land is donated to land trust or government agency.	Organization owns and protects land.	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes
Donation of undivided partial interest in land	Interests in land are donated to land trust or public agency over several years until the organization has full ownership.	Organization owns and protects land. Income tax deductions are spread over several years.	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes
Donation of land by will	Land is donated to land trust or agency at death.	Organization owns and protects land.	No	Yes	No	Possibly
Donation of remainder interest in land with reserved life estate	Land is donated to land trust or agency, but owner (or others designated by owner) continues to live there, usually until death.	Organization owns and protects land.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Bargain sale of land	Land is sold to land trust or agency for a price below fair market value.	Organization owns and protects land.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Lease	Land is leased for a specified number of years to a land trust, agency, or individual with restrictions placed on how it can be used.	Development is postponed	No	No	No	No
Mutual Covenant	A group of landowners agree to place restrictions on the uses of their land. May not involve a land trust or government conservation agency.	Can be nullified by subsequent agreement of owners.	No	No	No	No

"Children of the Depression"



This book contains 162 black and white photos that capture children living during the Great Depression.

Many of the photos feature North Carolina children at work, at play and at home. The photos are largely derived from a Farm Security Administration project and many of them have never before been published. Several well-known photographers are represented. "Children of the Depression," compiled by Kathleen Thompson and Hilary Mac Austin, and published by Indiana University Press is available in hardcover only for \$35. Call (800) 842-6796 or go to <http://iupress.indiana.edu>

How to put Cape Lookout lighthouse on your license plate



For \$30 more than your normal tag fee, you get this special issue license tag with the image of Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Of that \$30, \$20 goes directly to support the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum in Harkers Island.

Fifty more applications are needed before the special plate can be issued.

After you apply and receive your plate, the extra \$30 will become an annual fee. The Department of Motor Vehicles will coordinate your plate renewal date with the actual issue date of the tags, so you do not lose any time on your renewal schedule.

The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum is under construction. Your donations will aid these new renovations that will improve the museum's ability to showcase the heritage of North Carolinas Down East communities. The museum offers several community events throughout the year as well as in-school programs.

The Cape Lookout Lighthouse is one symbol of the historical significance of life in these communities.

To apply for your Cape Lookout Lighthouse commemorative license plate, call the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum at (252) 728-1500 or visit www.coresound.com

"If A Lighthouse Could Speak"

If a lighthouse could talk – what stories would it tell? North Carolina native Bett Padgett answers this question in her



CD: "Hatteras: If A Lighthouse Could Speak." In this CD, she unfolds musically the history of the "Cape Light." Gathered from Dare County residents and lighthouse

volunteers, these songs capture the emotion behind North Carolina's commitment to saving America's tallest, most photographed lighthouse. A selection from this CD, "The Last Climb," appears on the Oasis Folk Sampler.

"Conversations: Surprises and Other Stories" is Padgett's latest addition to her tribute to North Carolina history. In this CD, you hear 13 tales from North Carolina natives, as though you were sitting in their living rooms. Hear a first person account of the Wright Brother's famous flight in "I Will Fly Again" or re-live the horrors of "The Flood of '99."

Bett Padgett is a guitar instructor at North Carolina State University. For information, call her at (919) 787-6378 or write to P.O. Box 12972, Raleigh, NC 27605. Or visit www.bettpadgett.com

Malcolm Blue Farm

Located in Aberdeen on State Highway 5, South, this museum is housed in a two-story barn-like structure. Exhibits include: "The Pioneer Woman," "Early Cape Fear Settlers," and "The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads," as well as others on lumbering and agriculture. The farm was accepted to the Federal Civil War Discovery Trail. Special exhibits include: "Kudzu: The Vine That Covers the South," and "Endangered Farm Animals," among others. There is no admission fee. Group tours of ten or more can be arranged for a small fee. Hours: 1- 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Call (910) 944-7685.

"REA On The Way!"

A free print of "The Love of Granny" (previously featured on the cover of Carolina Country) is available when you purchase Pamela Renfroe's latest print "REA



On the Way!" This limited edition print is the fourth painting by Renfroe featuring the Rural Electrification Administration, the federal agency that helped electric

cooperatives form in the 1930s and 1940s. Each print is embossed with the Coca-Cola and the Willie Wirehand logos, and features a certificate of authenticity.

"REA On The Way!" measures 19 by 23 inches and is available for \$60 plus \$12 for shipping. Other prints by Renfroe are available as decorative trays. Contact: The Renfroe Collection of Fine Art, P.O. Box 867, 916 Holly Hills Road, Hartwell, GA 30643. Phone: (706) 376-5707. Web: www.pamelarenfroe.com

Hickory Mountain Weavery online

You can find hand-woven fashions made in North Carolina online at www.twinbirchproducts.com. You can also search for knitting supplies for your own



needle projects. All products are made by local artisans and many are hand-dyed. TwinBirch Products is headquartered in Pittsboro. Call (919) 742-3325.

Visit the Carolina Country Store

Do you have something to stock on the Carolina Country Store shelves? Send information and pictures to our storekeeper Talena Chavis through the Web site or at Carolina.country@ncemcs.com

The store is open 24 hours a day, everyday, at www.carolinacountry.com

New docking facilities in downtown Wilmington

The Wilmington Harbor Enhancement Trust (WHET) has made docking facilities available for boats to explore historic downtown Wilmington. These facilities offer 200 feet of bulkhead and 13 slips for boats up to 60 feet. The docks have a full-time dock master and a reservation system. To make reservations call (910) 251-WHET or visit www.wilmington-docks.com

Let's Get Cookin'

Tri-County EMC is offering its cookbook of more than 300 recipes, plus helpful hints. All recipes are from the kitchens of electric co-op members. Tri-County EMC serves more than 20,000 members in Duplin, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Sampson, Wayne and Wilson counties. To order the 194-page, 3-ring binder cookbook, send \$12 to Tri-County EMC, P. O. Box 130, Dudley, NC 28333 or call (919) 734-6277.



"A Warmer Touch"

South River EMC member Janet McCormick Harrington has published her first collection of poetry. This 25-page booklet includes some black and white photos. Her poems center on nature themes, especially springtime. She lives in Harnett County with her husband, Ralph. "A Warmer Touch" can be purchased for \$7.95 at



Parson's General Store in Morehead City. To order directly, write TLK Publications, 5812 Sandy Run, Knightdale, NC 27545 or call (910) 266-7481. The poetry book is also available at Harnett County and Lee County libraries.

Shelton Vineyards

On a 383-acre estate in Surry County are more than 200 acres of wine vineyards. Tours are available. Go to www.sheltonvineyards.com or call (336) 366-4724.

The Cottages at Spring House Farm

The first U.S. eco-retreat and a member of The International Ecotourism Society, the Cottages at Spring House Farm in Chimney Rock offer a secluded retreat for the environmentally conscious. Home to the 1826 Albertus Ledbetter House, the farm is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Spring House Farm consists of four cabins surrounded by 92 acres of forests, pastures, trout ponds and streams.



The property is located in a wildlife sanctuary. One well supplies water, power lines run underground and the forest of hardwoods remains undisturbed. Call (828) 738-9798 or (877) 738-9798 or visit www.springhousefarm.com

Country Store Special

INXS Trout Farm

William Gunter bought his trout farm in Monroe 11 years ago. "I love to fish and I just had to have it," he says. The 1½-acre farm near Highway 218 was formerly an old rock quarry with a lake more than 300 feet deep in places.

The farm is called "INXS Trout Farm," because it's "an excess of fish" and also as homage to the rock band by the same name.

Gunter fills the lake with rainbow trout and striped bass supplied by a fish grower in Brevard who sedates and salts them before their 170-mile trip to Monroe. He has some catfish, but he's trying to get rid of them, explaining, "I'm afraid they'll eat my trout."

He says a spinning lure or fly rod will work, or you can fish on the bottom. "You can catch something anywhere and fairly quick," says Gunter. Since this is considered a "catch-out" facility, you can fish from it year-round. You pay \$4 per pound for what you catch, but some days there are specials.

Gunter and his wife, Theresa, enjoy meeting people who come to the farm. He tells one story of a kid who showed up with a Scooby-Doo rod and reel that his dad had bought him. "He caught the biggest trout that I've seen come out of the lake." That would be 4½ pounds.



An older regular, who is partially paralyzed, brings his chair and usually leaves with six fish. "He has a pole-holder that is strapped to his chest," Gunter says. "He does everything with one hand, ties his own hook and baits with one hand. He won't let you help him."

Gunter was skeptical about getting into the fish farm business, but a biologist from N.C. State University, Jeff Hinshaw, was very helpful.

Union Power Cooperative in Monroe has helped him, too. "I use power all the time," Gunter says, especially for the aerators that pump oxygen into the water. While most of the fish in his lake become more active as the weather warms, the trout seek cooler temperatures. "They don't like the water to be more than 70 degrees, so they will be on the bottom."

Gunter could not work as a surveyor for a short time because of an injury. He says he was lucky he had the trout farm to fall back on. "It really worked out for me."

Gunter's farm is open four days, Friday through Monday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Contact him at (704) 753-9134.

— Talena Chavis

North Carolina recognizes **Occaneechi** as an official Indian tribe

By Talena Chavis

After a 17-year ordeal, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation has received state recognition as a tribe in North Carolina.

To apply for state recognition a tribe must meet five of the eight criteria set out by the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs. "We had six, if not seven of the criteria," said John "Blackfeather" Jeffries, spokesperson for the Occaneechi, who is also an employee of Piedmont EMC in Hillsborough. Perhaps the most important criterion states that to be officially recognized, tribes must trace their lineage back to indigenous North Carolina tribes at least 200 years. Blackfeather says the Occaneechi can trace their roots back further than 200 years.

According to the tribe's Web site, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is a small Indian community located primarily in the old settlement of Little Texas, Pleasant Grove Township, in Alamance County. The Occaneechi community descends from the Saponi and related Indians who occupied the Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia in pre-colonial times. They participated in treaties with the Colony of Virginia in 1677, 1680 and 1713, when they formed a confederation with other Indian communities in a settlement at Fort Christianna along the Virginia/North Carolina border in what is now Brunswick County, Va. The communities were remnants of the larger Siouan communities that had lived in North Carolina and Virginia in prehistoric times. In 1984, some of the Indians from Little Texas, and from an offshoot community called Oaks, reorganized as the Eno-Occaneechi Indian Association with the goal of preserving the Indian heritage.

Another criterion requires members to use traditional Indian surnames, but many Indians received European names as colonization spread across the state. "Crow, cucumber, corn, pheasant, these are all traditional Indian names," says Blackfeather.

Although the Occaneechi met the criteria for application, the bureaucratic process to recognition became complicated.

How does the ruling affect the Occaneechi?

"My dad is 88 years old," Blackfeather said.

"The day I told him, he looked at me, he was very emotional, and he said, 'I've been 88 years on this Earth. People have asked me what I am and I've said, I am a human being. I always knew I was an

Indian, but now I can say I am an Indian person recognized by North Carolina. I can say I'm an Indian without offending someone.'"

Blackfeather says that in his father's time people did not say they were Indian for fear of being threatened or even killed.

Now that the tribe is state-recognized, members will be eligible to apply for more health and education grants. "The kids will now be able to get scholarships and we can get grants for our school systems," Blackfeather said.

Blackfeather supports other tribes that are seeking state recognition. "I'm going to battle for the rest of the Indians," he says.

As an aid to establishing their history and maintaining their culture, the Occaneechi have a "living village" that visitors can see year-round. Blackfeather says that the village each spring offers college students an opportunity to do general upkeep and build onto the village. "We added two more huts, earthed the sweat hut with red clay and built an arbor."



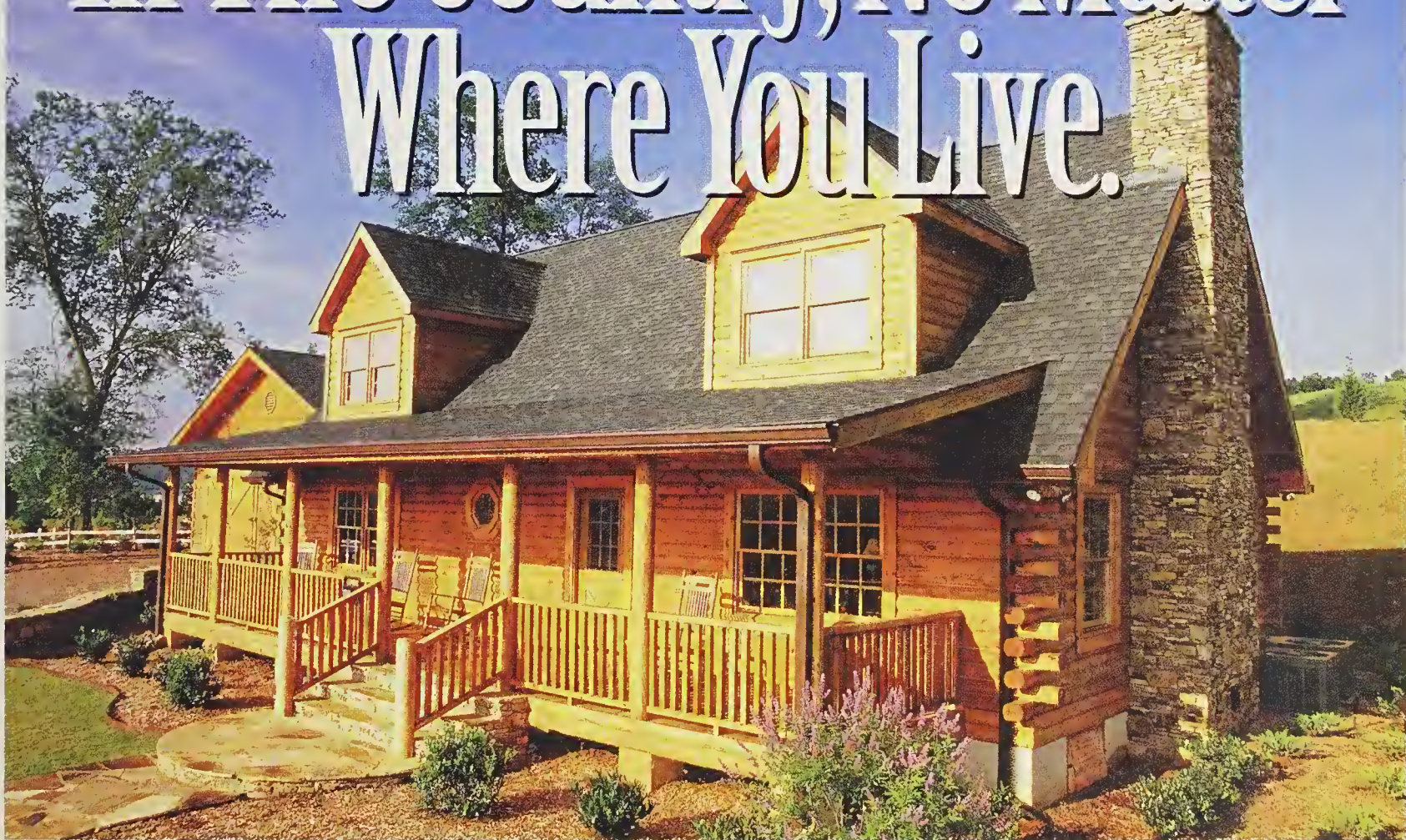
The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation holds an annual pow-wow in August. (Photo courtesy of John "Blackfeather" Jeffries.)

The village also hosts several events including the upcoming "Hillsborough Hog Day" from sunup to sundown on June 15. Blackfeather said the event is free, but that donations are requested for "all the food we'll be cooking." The Occaneechi will appear in period dress.

Informal tours of the village are given daily. Blackfeather said he sees visitors from other countries at least five times a week. "Yesterday I met a man from Germany and the day before two from Somalia." The village itself is half a mile downriver in the Pleasant Grove Township near Hillsborough.

For more information about the Occaneechi Village and the tribal recognition, contact: John "Blackfeather" Jeffries at 511 Latimer Street, Hillsborough, NC. Phone: (919) 732-8512 or visit <http://www.occaneechi-saponi.org/home.shtml>

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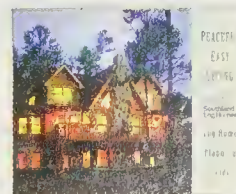
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A CONSUMER'S

by Luann Dart

Are you searching for detailed ideas to zap those energy leaks that sap your wallet? Well, start clicking.

Online energy audits are designed to help homeowners complete a do-it-yourself inspection of their home's energy consumption and energy efficiency.

Then, the Internet sites offer advice on how to plug those energy leaks.

"The bottom line is that you get recommendations of energy conservation improvements and what the cost-effective-ness will be," says Evan Mills, who works with the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in creating online energy audits.

One online energy audit created by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency will help you discover astounding energy savings for your specific residence.

The online energy advisor, called Home Energy Saver, can be found at <http://HomeEnergySaver.lbl.gov>. Start by entering your zip code, which will localize your audit information.

You'll get an estimated annual energy bill for an average house in your area, compared to the bill for an energy-efficient home in your area. For example, a homeowner could save more than \$600, or 53 percent of his energy bill, by using more energy-efficient heating, appliances and lighting. The Web site offers the homeowner a list of suggested upgrades to create a more energy-efficient house in general.

If you're looking for more details, answer some key questions about your home and you'll enter into an energy advisor session that targets your residence. Questions range from the size of your home to the location and number of windows to the type of heating and cooling equipment. Check the R-value or depth of your insulation first,

MYTHS about saving energy

Duct tape isn't necessarily the answer to energy conservation. Here are some other energy myths:

- Buying an efficient air conditioner or furnace will automatically reduce my energy bill.

This is true to some extent, but you won't realize all the possible savings if the equipment is not sized or installed properly. Studies have shown that typical air conditioner and duct systems are improperly installed, wasting one-third or more of the energy used by the air conditioner. New and replacement equipment (and ducts) need to be properly designed and installed to realize all the possible savings.

- Duct tape is good for sealing ducts.

Did you know that 30 percent of all the hot or cold air that passes through your home's duct system disappears before reaching its destination? And, guess what? Duct tape isn't the answer to this problem. Unfortunately, laboratory research has concluded that duct tape has very low durability when used to seal ducts.

Ducts are often overlooked as homeowners search for energy leaks. Look for sections that should be joined but have separated and then look for obvious holes. Then get a professional to help you insulate and repair all ducts.

- When my appliance is turned off, it's off.

In fact, most devices continue to consume power when they're switched off, sometimes as much power as when they're on! Most electronic entertainment equipment continues to use electricity even though you're not using it.

- Cleaning refrigerator coils saves energy.

While this seems intuitively logical, efforts to actually measure this effect have typically come up empty-handed. You'll save more energy by keeping temperatures at 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment of the refrigerator and 5 degrees for the freezer section. Regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers and make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight.

- Installing foam gaskets in electrical outlets will significantly reduce air leakage.

Measurements have shown that less than 1 percent of a home's air leakage is due to outlets. You'll do better by starting with the more major leaks.

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Guide to **ONLINE** energy audits

because you'll be asked questions about that, too. You'll also need to know the price you're paying for electricity or any fossil fuels you're using. If you don't have these details handy, print out the page and jot down the information as you walk through your home.

Once the page is completed, click on "estimate energy use." Wow! A homeowner could save more than \$2,000 a year or 79 percent of his estimated energy costs by following specific suggested upgrades in the heating and cooling system, water heating and appliances.

Do you still need more information? Click on any energy thieves in a list including ducts, lighting and insulation specifics for your home and see how improvements in these areas will reduce your home's energy consumption.

The site will continue to help you audit your home as it offers information on the profitability of any upgrades. Here, a chart lists the purchase price of a suggested upgrade, the annual savings and the rate of return. Sealing a home's ducts, for example, will cost \$250 and save \$95 a year.

While the Home Energy Saver is a more complex site, there are simpler sites available. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Home Energy Advisor can be found at <http://homeimprovement-tool.lbl.gov>. Again, the site will ask you about your home, then recommend upgrades. Both the Home Energy Saver and the Home Energy Advisor use powerful calculation tools behind the scenes, so be patient.

As you browse the Internet for online energy audits, look for features that will make the site more useful:

1) "Ideally, you want a tool that gives you flexibility," Mills says. "No one is average in their energy use. You want to find a tool or a site that lets you have results that are custom tailored to your situation." A flexible site will allow you to make decisions regarding your home and test various scenarios.

2) Make sure weather is a factor. Try to use a site that's as localized as possible. If it asks for your zip code, you know the information is linked to the local weather.

3) Decide what you want to learn, then find a site that will lead you there. Are the results you're getting from the Web site the type of results you're seeking?

4) What's the availability of decision support services? Does the site give you information to help you act? Links to relevant text and educational materials should be available to help you make energy conservation decisions.

5) Is the site objective? Is the site trying to sell something or is it a public service? Who is sponsoring the site? Make sure you know the source before you begin.

Online energy audits range from the very simple to the more complex, Mills says. While a simple site will allow you to get quick results, you won't be able to tailor the information to your specific needs. A more complex online energy audit will take more of your time to complete, but the results will be more detailed.

Online energy audits are useful in several ways, according to Mills. First, some tools allow you to compare your home's energy use to the average home in your area. Then, you'll be able to obtain recommendations and learn how to modify your home to save energy. Lastly, you should be able to look at the economics of making those changes.

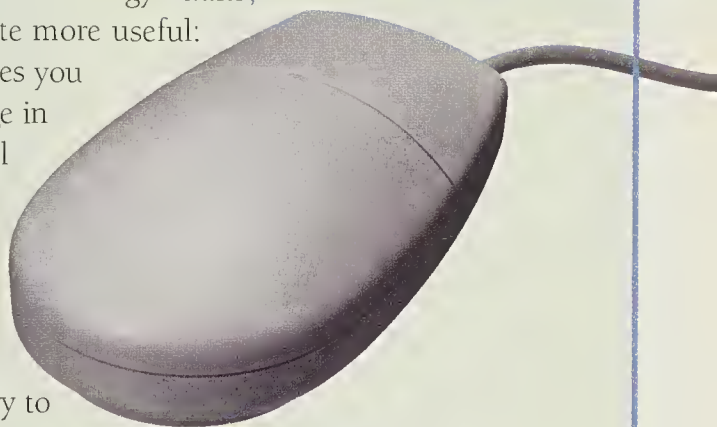
As you wind your way through an online energy audit, don't be wary of linking to other tools or sites. The Web is a powerful decision support environment, Mills says, and should be used to its fullest extent in helping you make decisions. Through various links, you can explore energy-efficient products, learn the jargon and get answers to frequently asked questions.

"But a Web audit is no substitute for professional expertise," Mills says. An energy audit in which an energy expert visits your home and a Web site audit should be complementary. If you decide to install a new heating system or new windows, work in tandem with a professional to make the right decisions, Mills advises.

As you begin your Internet journey, be prepared for some amazing savings. Homeowners will often discover 45 to 55 percent energy savings through an energy audit, according to Mills.

"Those are huge increases in energy efficiency," he says.

Luann Dart is a freelance writer who lives in North Dakota, where she is an electric cooperative member.



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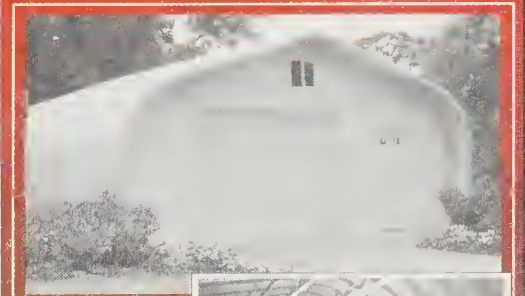
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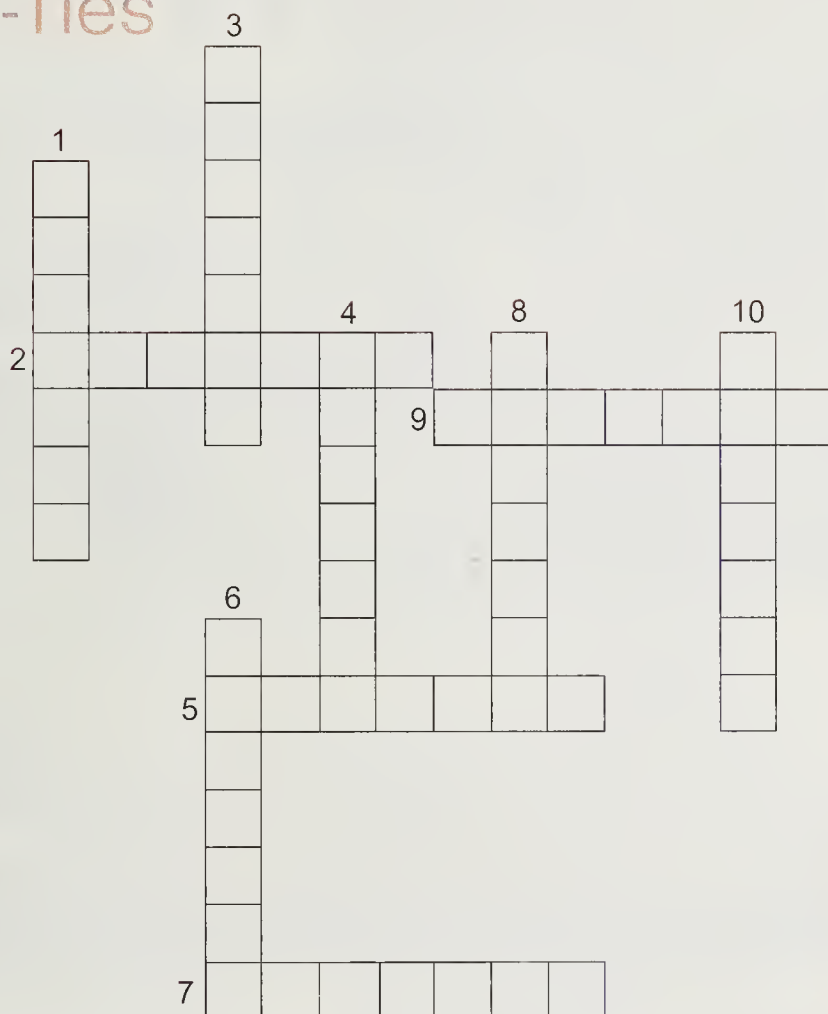
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Answers on page 28

Each of North Carolina's 10 seven-letter counties has a place of its own in this maze. *Can you put them in their places?*

Oh, Kay!



"You don't believe a word I say, but you know I'm right!"

go FIGURE!

Jack drove AB miles from his home in Wilson to a sales meeting in Fayetteville. Jill drove BA miles (the digits represented by the letters are reversed) to the meeting from her home near Sanford. If Jack lived one mile farther away, he would have driven twice as far as Jill.

How far did each of them drive?

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Basement add \$7,800

24x24 cabin w 8'x24' porch, 6 windows, 1 entry door **\$7,995**
20x24 cabin w 6'x24' porch, 5 windows, 1 entry door **\$5,995**

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40x60x10 **\$12,500**
60x100x12 **\$29,900**

20x30x8 **\$7,800**
30x40x8 **\$11,500**
40x60x10 **\$17,900**



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40 x 100 x 16 - \$14,518

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May *EVENTS*



The Sanford Pottery Festival arrives at the Dennis A. Wicker Convention Center on May 4-5. Visit Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults cost \$5 and children under 12 are free. Call (919) 770-7821 or visit www.sanfordpottery.com.

MOUNTAINS (west of I-77)

Paintings by Barbara White
May 1-31, Danbury
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
May 12, reception, 2-4 p.m.
Free, (336) 593-8159

"Viva Quetzal"
May 3, Spindale
The Foundation Performing
Arts and Conference Center,
7:30 p.m., \$10, youth \$5
(828) 286-3636, ext. 380

**One-Way Architectural
Antiques Show**
May 3-5, King
(336) 983-6790

Pickin' in the Park
May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31,
Canton Recreation Park
7 p.m., Music and dance by the
river, (828) 648-7925

www.pickininthepark.com

11th Annual Dance Recital
May 4, Cherryville
Starnes Auditorium, Free
(704) 435-4247

**Watauga County
Farmer's Market**
Opens May 4, Boone
Saturday a.m.-noon
(828) 963-8052

Olde Tyme Music Festival
May 4, Hendersonville
10-5 p.m. Rain or shine.
Free, (828) 697-2022

SpringFest
May 4, Ashe County
10-4 p.m. See and make art.
Mountainview Elementary
Free, (336) 246-ARTS

Spring Festival
May 4, Murphy
All day, music, food and more.
(828) 837-6821

Ashe County Youth Chorus
May 5, Jefferson
Ashe Arts Center, 3 p.m., \$6,
\$3 students, (336) 246-ARTS

**Blue Ridge Miniature
Harness Racing Club**
May 11, Mount Airy
1 p.m., Free
(336) 463-2882

5th Annual Mule Day
May 11, Love Valley Arena
(336) 764-2220

Art in the Park
May 11, Blowing Rock
Fine art and craft shows.
10 a.m.-5 p.m., (828) 295-7851

Sheep Shearing Day
May 11, Pinnacle
Hand-shearing, wool, dyeing
yarn, etc., 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Free
(336) 325-2298

Tim Frye's Pickin' On the Creek
May 11, Mount Airy
Live music concerts, \$5,
Children under 12 free
(336) 786-5039

Rhonda Vincent and The Rage
May 11, West Jefferson
Ashe Civic Center, Bluegrass
vocalist, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

**Mountain Renaissance
Adventure Faire**
May 11-12, Asheville
AB-Tech College Campus, Live
entertainment, food and
exhibits, 10-6 p.m., \$6,
Children \$4, (828) 231-6114,
www.rennfaire.org

Michaux Celebration
May 15-19, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden,
History, botany, French culture
and food, (704) 825-4490

**American Cancer Society Relay
for Life Kick-Off**
May 17-18, Murphy
6-11 p.m., (828) 837-9291

Riverfest 2002
May 18, Boone
Valle Crucis Park, 10 a.m.-
3 p.m., Educational exhibits,
activities and games,
(828) 963-1194

CND's Birthday Doll Show/ Sale
May 18, Brevard
American Legion Hall, 9:30 a.m.-
3:30 p.m., (828) 966-9482

Home, Business, Leisure Show
May 18-19, Waynesville/Maggie
Valley, Haywood Fairgrounds
(828) 926-3111,
www.haywoodnc.yourba.com

Lake Eden Arts Festival
May 24-26, Black Mountain
Music, dancing, handcrafts,
poetry, healing arts and kid
activities, daily tickets \$15-\$33
Under 10 \$1, Under 6 free
(828) 68-MUSIC
www.theLEAF.com

Garden Jubilee
May 25-26, Hendersonville
10 a.m.-6 p.m., Arts and crafts
festival, (828) 693-9708
www.historichendersonville.org

Spring Arts Festival
May 25, Burnsville
Events at various downtown
areas, (828) 682-7413

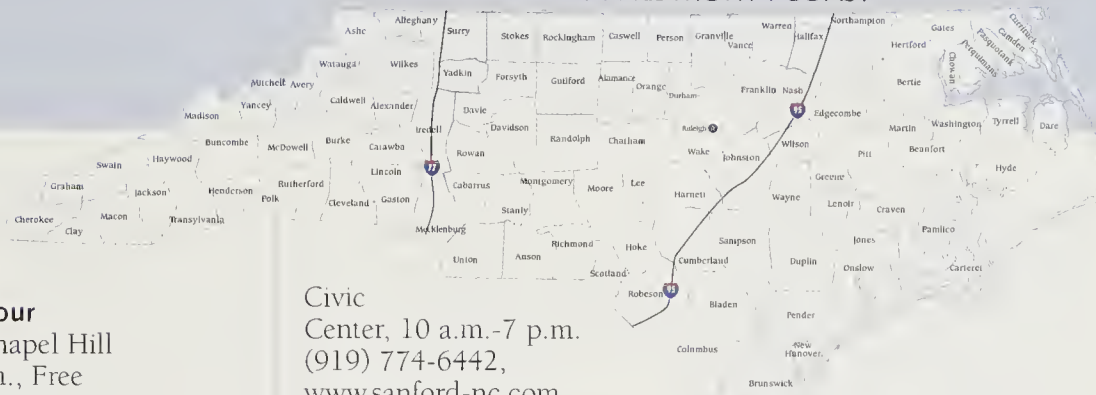
**13th Annual Carl Sandburg
Folk Music Festival**
May 27, Hendersonville
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Carl
Sandburg home, Free, (828)
693-4178

**Solo Exhibit:
"Noyes Capehart Long"**
Through June 1, Jefferson
Ashe Arts Gallery, Free
(336) 246-ARTS

Stokes County Writers Group
Ongoing, Danbury
First Tuesday, Danbury Public
Library, Second Tuesday, King
Library, 7 p.m., (336) 593-
8159, (336) 593-2419

Cradle of Forestry Historic Site
Ongoing, Pisgah Forest
May 11, "Walk to the Wetlands"
guided hike, 10:30 a.m.
May 12, "Mother's Day and
Trees in May," noon-5 p.m.
May 18, "Migratory Bird Day,"
guided bird walks, all day
May 25, "Photography
Workshop with George

MOUNTAINS | PIEDMONT | COAST



Humphries," 1 p.m.
(828) 877-3130
www.cradleofforestry.com

Southern Highland Craft Guild

Ongoing events, Asheville
May 4-Sept. 29, Blue Ridge
Parkway's Folk Art Center,
"Celebrating Scotland's Crafts"
May 4, Opening ceremony
featuring Scottish music
2 p.m., (828) 298-7928

PIEDMONT

(between I-77 and I-95)

Piedmont Jazz Festival

May 1-5, Various Triad areas
Indoor/outdoor celebration of
Jazz, (336) 334-7600

Multicultural Festival

May 4, Lexington
Finch Park, Dance, music and
food, (336) 248-3960

Carrboro Day 2002

May 4, Carrboro
Town Hall and Commons
Storytelling, arts and crafts,
potluck dinner, 2-8 p.m., Free
(919) 918-7364

Botanical

Garden Tour

May 4, Chapel Hill
10-11 a.m., Free
(919) 962-0522

Annual Pottery Sale

May 4, Charlotte
Clay artists present their work.
10 a.m.-4 p.m., Free
(704) 537-9248

Annual Dutch Oven

Cooking Contest

May 4, Goldsboro
State Park, Register before
9:30 a.m., all entries must be
from scratch, (919) 731-1653

Antique Farm Equipment Day

May 4, Raleigh
Wake County Fairgrounds
9 a.m.-5 p.m., free
(919) 735-5503

Antique Truck Show

May 4, Efland
(336) 657-8083

Durham Arts Walk

May 4, Downtown
Various art events, 10 a.m.
(919) 560-2787

"Soul Gone Home"

May 4, Durham
St. Joseph's Performance
Hall
\$15, Students/seniors \$12
(919) 683-1709

Art in the Alley

May 4, Hickory
Trade Alley gallery crawl
1-6 p.m., (828) 322-7545
www.folkart.com

Sanford Pottery Festival

May 4-5, Sanford
Dennis A. Wicker
Convention Center
Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$5, Under 12 free,
(919) 770-7821
www.sanfordpottery.com

Small Business Expo

May 8, Sanford
Dennis A. Wicker

Civic

Center, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
(919) 774-6442,
www.sanford-nc.com

Professional Bull Riders

May 10-11, Raleigh
8 p.m. Raleigh Sports Arena
\$10-\$75, (919) 834-4000
www.phrnow.com

Moore County Rodeo

Arena Grand Opening

May 10-11, West End
Highway 73, 8 p.m., \$12 at
gate, \$10 in advance
(910) 464-ROPE

Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver

Bluegrass Music Festival

May 10-12, Denton
Denton Farm Park
Friday/Saturday 1-11 p.m.,
Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Friday/Saturday \$25, Sunday
\$15, (336) 859-2755

Carthage Buggy Festival

May 11, Carthage
Music, classic car show and
more, Free, (910) 947-2875

Antique Tractor and

Lawnmower Show

May 11, Marshville
\$3, Children under 12 free
(704) 624-6105

Migratory Bird Day

May 11, Asheboro
Zoo, North American Plaza
Face painting, bird watching,
games and more
(800) 488-0444

May Faire in the

Enchanted Forest

May 11, Chapel Hill
Emerson Waldorf School,
Storytelling, games, food and
more, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., \$3,
Children \$1, (919) 967-1858

**9th Annual Old-Time Fiddler's
and Bluegrass Convention**

May 11, Mocksville
Masonic Picnic Grounds
Competitions, live music and
workshops, Noon-6 p.m.

\$8, Kids 6-12 \$2, Under 6 free,
(336) 998-8877
<http://home.earthlink.net/~kwishon>

J. Seward Johnson Jr.

Sculpture Exhibition

May 15-August 15, Pittsboro
Fearrington Village
(800) 277-0130

Gold Hill Fiddler's Convention

May 18, Gold Hill
Register one hour before
competitions. Competition 3
p.m.-midnight, Individual com-
petition 3-6 p.m., Band compe-
tition 7 p.m., \$7, children/sen-
iors/students \$5, Weekend
camping available for \$10 per
site, (704) 279-5674
www.lithstringandco.com

Ole Mill Crank-Up

May 18-19, Sanford
HWY 42, Crafts, music and
tractor pull, \$4, Children under
12 free, (919) 776-7747

Charlie Poole Music Festival

May 17-18, Eden
Morehead Memorial Park
Features musician Norman
Blake from "O Brother Where
Art Thou," \$10 per day, \$15 for
both days, (336) 623-1043 or
(336) 627-0375,
www.clee.com/eps

Big Lick Antique Festival

May 17-19, Oakboro
8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-
4 p.m., \$5, (704) 485-4906
www.hansonauction.com

The Old-Time Square Dance

May 18, Denton
7-10:30 p.m., (336) 475-9397



Take in the realistic J. Seward
Johnson Jr. Sculpture
Exhibition at Fearrington
Village in Pittsboro, May 15-
August 15. Call (800) 277-
0130 for details.

MAY EVENTS

Homespun Faire featuring "The Fantastic Shakers"

May 18, Denton
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Crafts, games
and more, (336) 859-5922

Spring Antique Festival

May 18-19, Reidsville
Chinqua-Penn Plantation
(800) 948-0947

Ole Time Fiddler's and Bluegrass Festival

May 24-26, Union Grove
Various musical events: compe-
titions, dances and concerts
Friday 7 p.m., Sat. 9:30 p.m.-
7 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-1:15
p.m., \$35-\$45, Youth \$5-\$20,
Fiddler's Grove Campground,
(704) 539-4417, www.fiddlersgrove.com

Shelton at Sunset Concert

May 25, Dobson
Shelton Vineyards, 6-9 p.m.
Music by "The Mixed
Emotions," \$15
(336) 366-4724

Memorial Day Ceremony

May 25, Harrells
10 a.m. parade
(910) 532-4040

Bimbé Cultural Festival

May 25-26, Durham

Historic Durham Athletic Park
Music, art and dance from the
Caribbean, 2-10 p.m.
(919) 560-4355, Free
www.durhamgetaways.com

Minority Student Exhibition

May 26-June 28, Greensboro
Cultural Center, African
American Atelier
(336) 333-6885

Special Olympics Summer Games

May 31-June 2, Raleigh
May 31, Opening ceremony,
7:30 p.m., (800) 843-6276 ext.
106, www.sonc.net

Malcolm Blue Farm Museum

Ongoing, Aberdeen
May 25-26, 3rd Annual
Antique Fair, Sat. 9 a.m.-
5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Special exhibits, "Kudzu—The
Vine That Covers the South,"
"Nature's Wrath," "Endangered
Farm Animals," and more.
Wed-Sat., Noon-4 p.m., free
(910) 944-5967 or 7558

Mint Museum of Art

Ongoing, Charlotte
May 4-July 28, "American
Modern 1925-1940: Design for
a New Age"
Permanent collection:
"Libensky-Brychtova Glass

Exhibit," (704) 366-2504

Mint Museum of Craft + Design

Ongoing, Charlotte
Through Sept. 8, "Quilts
from the Carolinas," Tues.-
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.
noon-5 p.m., \$6, Seniors
\$5, Kids 3-17 \$3, Under
3 free, (704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

Caldwell County Historical Society and Heritage Museum

Ongoing events, Lenoir
Tours by appt., Tues.-Sat.
10 a.m.-3 p.m., (828)
758-4004, No admission,
donations appreciated

Rankin Museum of American Heritage

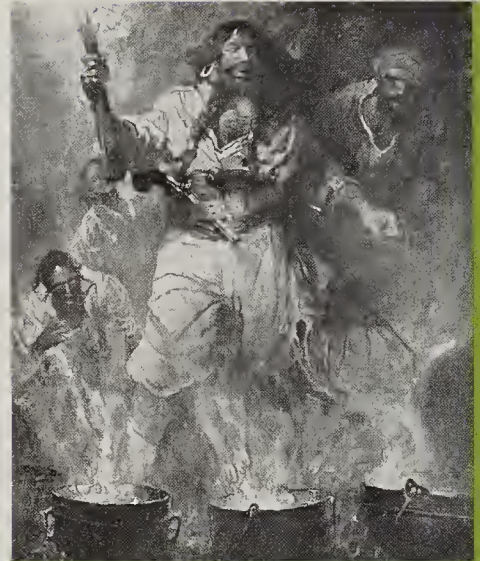
Ongoing, Ellerbe
131 W. Church St.
(910) 652-6378

Museum of Life and Science

Ongoing, Durham
May 18 through August,
"Mostly Music"
Butterfly releases at 11
a.m. and 3 p.m.
Train rides, every 30 minutes in
the a.m.; every hour until 4
p.m., \$8.50, Children 3-12 \$6,
Seniors \$7.50, (919) 220-5429,
www.ncmls.org

Museum of Art

Ongoing, Raleigh
May 19 through July 28,
"Empire of the Sultans:
Ottoman Art from the Khaili
Collection"
Through Aug. 25, "Reverend
McKendree Robbins Long:
Picture Painter of the
Apocalypse"
Through Dec 1., "The Birds of
America by John James
Audubon"
(919) 839-6262
www.ncartmuseum.org



Through July 28, check out "Image
of Blackbeard" at the Maritime
Museum in Wilmington.

This Frank E. Schoonover painting is
based on the story in Captain
Charles Johnson's "General History
of the Pirates." The story claims that
Blackbeard once shut himself and a
number of his crew down in the hold
of the ship and lit a number of sul-
phur pots to see who could stand the
"fumes of hell" the longest.

Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure

Through Dec, Raleigh
Exploris, I-MAX film, (919)
834-4040, www.exploris.org

COAST (east of I-95)

Ocracoke Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament

May 1-4, Ocracoke
(888) 493-3826

Annual Spring Concert with Brunswick Concert Band

May 2, Caswell Beach
7:30 p.m., free, donations
requested, (910) 253-6958

N.C. Strawberry Festival

May 3-4, Chadbourn
(910) 654-3445



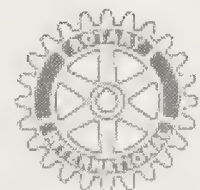
Duplin County

*Stroll through 19th-century
Liberty Hall Plantation on a
journey to another time and place.*



See unique treasures at Cowan Museum.
Tour a winery, search for antiques,
enjoy a great meal, and
*experience our heritage
& hospitality*
in a friendly, unhurried part of the world.
We think it's special – you will too!

(910) 296-2180 or (800) 755-1755
e-mail: duplintourism@duplinnet.com



Dear Flea Market Vendors including all who like to join their neighbors with a garage sale.

Come rent a 10x12 space for \$135.00
on June 22-23rd at the Old Creek
School. The theme is Farm, Home
and Antique.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Boone,
NC to raise money for our
scholarship fund.

Free Pancake Breakfast Each Morning.

FILL IN THE SPACE BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE
TO PARTICIPATE:

Name _____

Address _____

crafts music
(252) 322-5227

Carteret County Arts/Crafts Coalition Spring Show

May 25-26, Beaufort
Beaufort Historical Site,
Turner St., Juried arts and
crafts, Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Sun. 1-5p.m.
(252) 726-3354

Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum

Ongoing, Wilmington
Through June 9, "North
Carolina Clay: Past and
Present"
Through July 14, "Donald
Sultan: Paintings"
Through April 2003, "
18th Century European Art
from the N.C. Museum of
Art," Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-
5 p.m., Sun. 10:30 a.m.-
4 p.m., \$5, Family \$8,
Kids 5-18 \$2, Under
5 free, First Sunday of the
month free (910) 395-
5999 [www.cameronart
museum.com](http://www.cameronartmuseum.com)

Maritime Museum

Ongoing, Wilmington
Through July 28, "Images
of Blackbeard," Weekdays,
9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays
10 a.m.-5 p.m. and
Sundays 1-5 p.m., Free,
(252) 728-7317
www.ncmm-friends.org

LISTING INFORMATION

Deadline for July: May 24
Deadline for Aug: June 25

A phone number must
be included with event
listings in order to be
published.

Photos are welcome.

Mother's Day Garden Bazaar

May 3-4, Edenton
9 a.m.-6 p.m., Crafts, plants
and more, (252) 482-8129

Clam and Scallop Festival

May 4, Salter Path
SP baseball park, Food, music,
crafts and golf tournament
(252) 247-3260

Mile of Hope

May 4, Atlantic Beach
Atlantis Lodge, Annual sand
castle building contest spon-
sored by area businesses for
children undergoing cancer
therapies, (252) 726-5168

Roanoke Paddle Days

May 4-5, Greenville
Boat paddling trips
(252) 830-6375
www.roanokeriverpartners.org

Craven County Pow Wow

May 4-5, New Bern
Bring lawn chairs
(252) 244-4222

National Tourism Week Open House

May 9, Bath
Free tours of Palmer-Marsh
house and the Bonner homes
Refreshments, (252) 923-3971

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May 17, Hertford
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May 17-19, Edenton
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Mini-duct air systems may be the "right fit" for your home

By James Dulley

"High-velocity" and "mini-duct" systems are different names for the same type of efficient and comfortable central air-conditioning and heating unit. These systems are quiet, distribute the cool air evenly throughout your house and dehumidify very effectively.

Although these systems are becoming more popular in new homes for both heating and cooling, they are most often installed in existing homes for central air-conditioning. Since the flexible, insulated mini-ducts are easy to install with little remodeling, they are particularly popular in houses with hot water heat or baseboard electric heat that have no existing central sheet metal ductwork. It can be difficult to install standard large sheet metal ducts in an existing house.

With a mini-duct system, several tiny two-inch openings are located in the ceiling or high on the walls in each of your rooms. You can barely notice the outlets when they are painted the same color as the room. For a decorative look, natural wood outlets are available. The cool air blows out of these small openings. With the many outlets properly located, there are no drafts.

The key to the high efficiency and excellent dehumidification is the higher pressure blower that is used with the mini-duct systems as compared to a regular ducted system. This blower unit is often mounted centrally in the attic to reduce noise and the overall length of the mini-ducts. Insulated, flexible main ducts extend from the compressor, and then the mini-ducts run from them to each room.

With the air at a higher pressure, a more compact and dense set of cooling coils can be used without impeding the air flow as it would in a standard ducted system. This allows the dense air to be in contact with the cooling coils longer, so it is cooled to a lower temperature. Just like an ice-cold soft drink can sweats, the moisture condenses out of the air on the cold coils and the water is piped to a drain or outdoors.

The high-pressure, dry, cool air (heated air during the winter) exits the tiny room outlets at a very high velocity near the ceiling. This high-velocity air, coupled with its sudden pressure drop, creates an aspiration effect and gentle circular

air currents. This causes all the air in the room to circulate and mix. With these even room temperatures and lower humidity, you can usually set the thermostat several degrees higher for big savings without sacrificing comfort.

When you hear the words "high-velocity and pressure," you would naturally think these systems are noisy. Actually, you can barely hear the insulated blower unit running and

there is no air flow sound from the tiny outlets. The round duct has no noise-producing edge, and most systems also have a short sound-attenuation duct section immediately before each cool air outlet.

When a mini-duct system is installed in an existing two-story house, the mini-ducts are run down from the attic through corners of closets or inside walls to the first floor. There, they are installed in the walls or ceilings, depending on the specific house. In a single-story house, the entire system is located in the attic with outlets in the ceiling below.

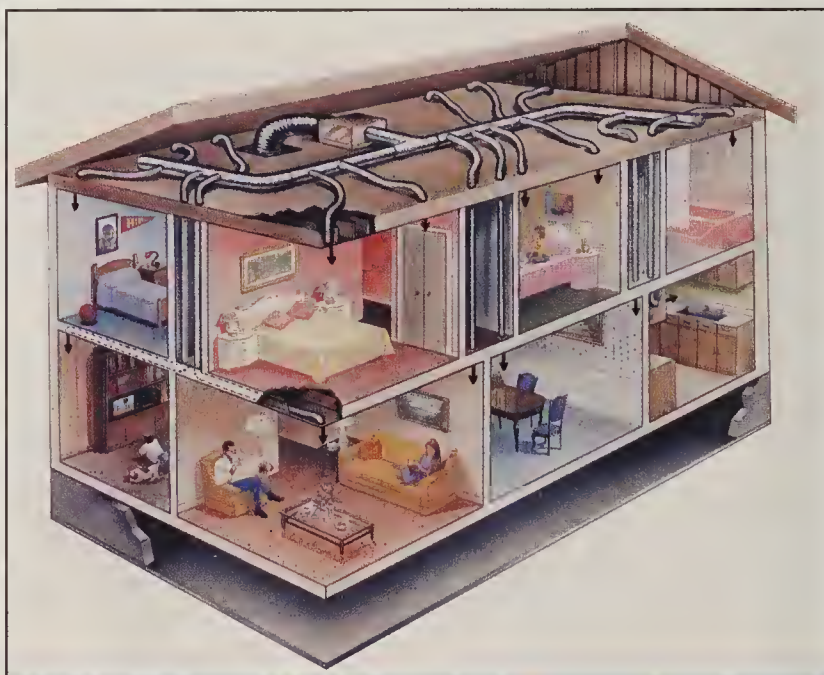
There are several meth-

ods to balance a mini-duct system to get the proper amount of cooled air to each room. Some rooms, such as a living room where your family relaxes, do not have to be kept as cool as an exercise room. Reducer outlets, with a smaller opening, can be installed to reduce the air flow. Adjustable outlets are also available to let you fine tune and change the air flow from summer to winter if you are also using it for heating.

Mini-duct systems use standard high-efficiency, outdoor air-conditioning compressor units like a standard ducted system. A unit with a single-speed scroll compressor is an ideal choice for most homes. Your contractor can recommend a compressor model that is compatible with the mini-duct blower.

Write for (or instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 432 - buyer's guide of mini-duct, high-velocity air-conditioning systems listing sizes, features, installation details and a list of the most-efficient outdoor compressor units. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244

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The entire unit can be located in the attic with ducts running down between the floors through walls or closets.

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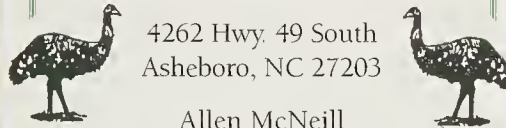
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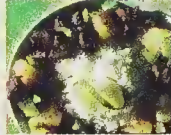


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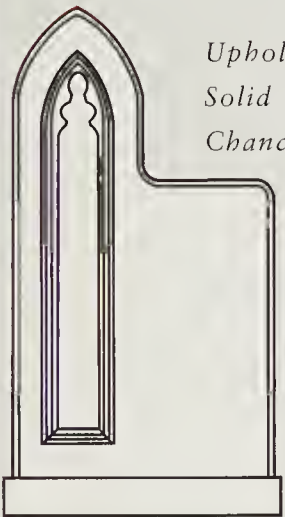
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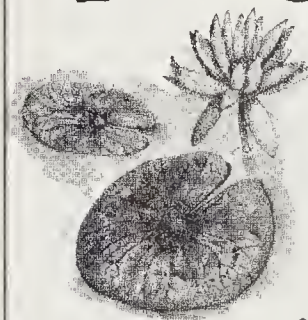
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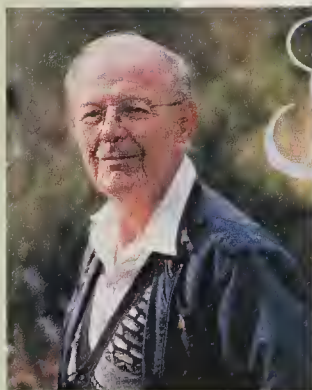


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ardening is now in full swing. Take advantage of fleeting cool days to plant bulbs, summer annuals and vegetables. While increasing efforts to prepare gardens for summer and autumn production, keep year-round care and maintenance in mind.

Trailing arbutus

The mayflower (trailing arbutus) blooms in early to late spring. The fragile beauty of its flowers and their exquisite fragrance have made it a favorite of many generations. The flower grows wild

from Newfoundland to Florida, west to Kentucky, and in the Northwest. It has become scarce due to over picking and transplanting from native habitats.

Arbutus requires intensely acid soil in a woodland setting. Soil pH must be 4.5 or below. Purchase plants from larger, well-established nurseries, some of which specialize in propagation of woodland flowers. The flowers thrive in wooded hillsides and rocky woods, particularly those near or beneath cone-bearing trees. The delicate pinkish blooms are often overlooked, as they tend to drape beneath plants. Elevated planters will bring the flowers to eye-level. During the first season, plants should be mulched with a light covering of pine needles. Never allow the soil around the root system to dry out. Bees are very fond of the mayflower.



Photo courtesy of Joshua Stuart Rose.

Plan, then plant vegetables

Now that soil and air temperatures are rising, vegetable gardening should be on the increase. Where space is limited, select favorite crops and quantities. For many, tomatoes top the list. If eggplant and peppers are among favorites, put out two or three plants of each. They require little space and will bear until frost. Sweet corn is also well liked. If space allows, consider pole or bush snap beans, okra, summer and winter squash, Southern peas, cucumbers, and even cantaloupes and watermelons.

Houseplants relish summer sun

Indoor decorative plants revitalize if moved outdoors over summer. Place them in dappled shade for a few days. Then move to a spot shaded from noonday sun. Continue to gradually move the plants to less and less shady spots to reduce the shock of changing light levels ☼

Aphids and plant lice

Young aphids are tiny, soft-bodied insects of green to black color. They usually attack roots, undersides of leaves, and tender roots. Control these insects with *systemics*. These pest control products also help in getting rid of leaf miners, spider mites, leafhoppers and white flies. Choose from sprays, granules or soil drenches.

Care of newly-set trees

The first year after setting a tree is critical—the better the care, the sooner fruit and nut trees start bearing. Important factors to watch closely

Hot Shorts

☛ Place wire cages over tall-growing tomato plants, or secure them to wooden stakes with discarded panty hose or strips of soft cloth.

☛ Some annuals that can be cut and dried for fall and winter indoor decora-

tion include: celosia (cockscomb), helichrysum (strawflower), statice and glabe-amaranth.

☛ Some annual flowers to plant now include: sweet alyssum, ageratum, scabiosa, marigold, nasturtium, zinnia, balsam (touch-me-not), cosmos,

tithania, cratalaria, petunia, and verbena.

☛ Dull lawn mower blades chew the grass, leaving jagged edges that sometimes become entry points for diseases.

☛ Replenish mulch around trees and shrubs.

☛ Tall-growing dahlias and gladiolus are often difficult to work into annual and perennial flowerbeds. They are out of scale with lower-growing flowers. Instead, try planting them in rows as vegetables.

GARDENING TERM

Systemics

A pesticide that is harmless to the plant and to any animal or person who eats it, but makes the plant itself toxic to pests (insects, fungus, etc).

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3 cups cold fat-free milk
2 packages (1 ounce each) sugar-free instant white chocolate pudding mix
1 prepared angel food cake (14 ounces), cut into 1-inch cubes
3 cups sliced fresh strawberries
3 cups fresh raspberries
1 carton (8 ounces) reduced-fat frozen whipped topping, thawed
3 whole strawberries, quartered

In a bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes or until slightly thickened. Place a third of the cake cubes in trifle bowl or 3½ quart glass serving bowl. Top with a third of the pudding, 1 cup sliced strawberries, 1½ cups raspberries and a third of the whipped topping. Layer with a third of the cake and pudding, 1 cup strawberries and a third of the whipped topping. Top with remaining cake, pudding, strawberries, raspberries and whipped topping. Garnish with quartered strawberries. Serve immediately or refrigerate. Yield: 14 servings.

White Chocolate Berry Pie

5 squares (1 ounce each) white baking chocolate, divided
2 tablespoons milk
1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened
⅓ cup confectioners' sugar
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
1 cup whipping cream, whipped
1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries

In a microwave, melt four squares of chocolate with milk. Cool to room temperature. Meanwhile, beat cream cheese and sugar in a small mixing bowl until smooth. Beat in orange peel and melted chocolate. Fold in whipped cream. Spread into crust. Arrange strawberries over top. Melt remaining chocolate; drizzle over strawberries. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Store in refrigerator. Yield: 8 servings.

For more Carolina Kitchen recipes, visit our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com

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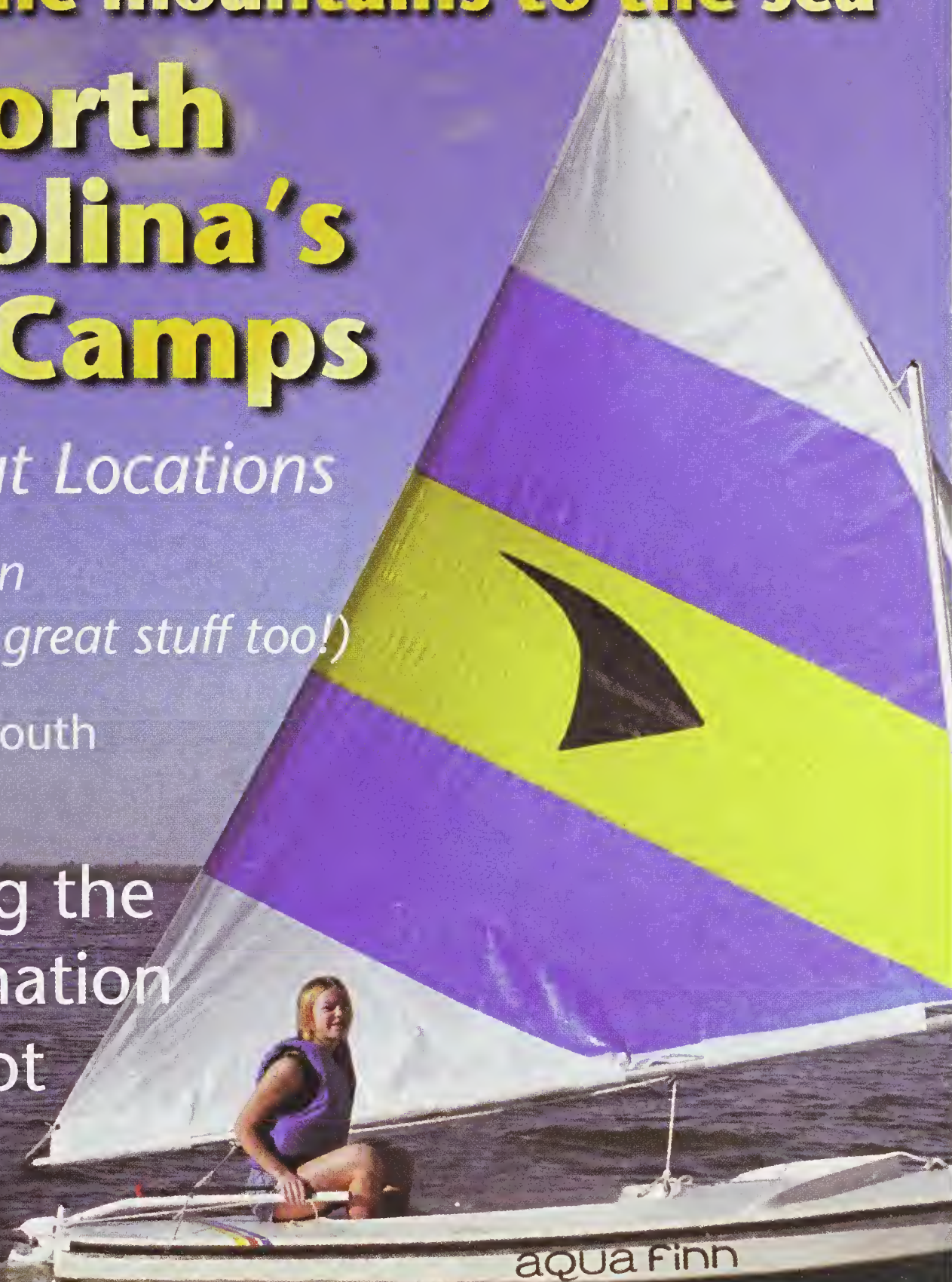
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